

Preteen

Small Group

November — Week 5

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare. Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Opener
- Worship
- Bible Story (sections about God's Big Story are listed as optional)
- Conversation Starter
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
2. Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions
3. Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
4. Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Devotionals for Kids
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

✦ Need activities for a K-5th group? Check out the 2nd-3rd grade guide.



THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

Nehemiah

Nehemiah 1-4, 6:1-15

Conversation Starter

What do you need help with?

Bottom Line

God can help you do big things.

Memory Verse

"Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak"

Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro tips.

GROUPS 4/5

Verses to Take with You



Memory Verse Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Bibles
- Scissors
- "Origami Eagle" Activity Page
- "Origami Eagle Steps" Activity Page

Inclusive Supplies

- Several pre-made origami eagles



Inclusive Pro Tips

Make several origami eagles to give to kids who might struggle to put the art piece together.

① What You Do

1. Give every kid a Bible.
2. Invite them to look up Isaiah 40:31 using the Bible Navigation Tips.
3. Ask if there are any words that are unfamiliar to them in the verse.
4. Repeat the verse together.

Create Together

1. Give every kid an "Origami Eagle" Activity Page and a pair of scissors.
2. Encourage the kids to cut out the square on the "Origami Eagle" Activity Page.
3. Display the pre-made origami eagle so the kids can see the final product!
4. Walk through the steps together using the "Origami Eagle Steps" Activity Page.
5. Once everyone is done, let them write "Isaiah 40:31" with a marker on their origami eagle wherever they'd like.

Talk Together

1. Encourage the kids to set the eagle somewhere at home where they can be reminded that as they keep putting their trust and hope in God, He will give them the strength to do big things!

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders

- ① Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for.
- ② When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers.
- ③ Once they find the chapter, explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

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GROUPS 3/5

Discussion Questions

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No Supplies Needed



① What You Do

1. What do you need help with?
2. Nehemiah went to God for everything he needed. What can you do to remind yourself that you can ask God for everything?
3. How does knowing God goes with you through everything give you more confidence?
4. What can you do to remind yourself that God is always with you?
5. Who did Nehemiah go to for help first—God or people? Why do you think that matters?
6. Nehemiah didn't rebuild the wall alone. He needed help. God helped him through people. Who are the people God has put in your life to help you with big things?

Inclusive Pro Tips



Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.

Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

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GROUPS 1/5

Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Sticky notes
- Pencils



① What You Do

1. Gather the kids together in a circle.
2. Give every kid at least two sticky notes and a pencil.
3. Say, "Nehemiah noticed God's people were feeling hopeless. He was confident in the assignment God gave him!"
4. Ask: "What things in our world feel broken?"
→ Kids might say bullying, people without food, lying, loneliness, or the pressure to be perfect.
5. Invite the kids to write or draw one idea per sticky note.
6. Ask: "How might God use you to help rebuild what's broken?"
→ Kids might say starting a kindness club, helping a neighbor, or praying for someone.
7. Collect the sticky notes and set them aside for the Prayer Activity

Talk together

1. Explain: "Nehemiah heard of something that was broken and didn't just ignore it. He trusted God and did something BIG! He inspired others to help too."
2. Ask: What's something you want to help rebuild in our world?
→ Give the kids some examples of big things God might ask them to do, like work with their family to have a garage sale to raise money for a cause.
3. Encourage the kids to think about the things they're passionate about. It's likely that God has placed that thing on their heart to help others!
4. Explain that the job in front of you might seem big—so was building a wall for Nehemiah. But Nehemiah asked God for everything he needed every step of the way, and God helped him. You can do the same thing! God loves to help you with the big thing that's on your heart!

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GROUPS 5/5

Make It Personal with Prayer



Prayer Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- Sticky notes from Take a Snapshot (Application Activity)

① What You Do

1. Instruct the kids to join you in a seated circle.
2. Set the sticky notes from earlier in the center of the circle.
3. Invite the kids to silently pick one note that stands out to them (not their own).
4. Direct the kids to read it and hold it as the group prays together.
5. Close in prayer together, thanking God for seeing every need, every big thing, and every broken thing! Thank God for giving the kids strength to do big things this week and always!